

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-22 without prejudice, and replace them with the following new claims:

1-22. (Canceled).

23. (New) A bubble generating assembly comprising:

a housing having a front opening, with a wiping bar secured to a portion of the front opening;

a trigger mechanism;

a bubble generating ring positioned adjacent the front opening;

means for delivering bubble solution to the ring; and

a link assembly that couples the trigger mechanism and the ring in a manner in which actuation of the trigger mechanism causes the ring to be moved from a first position to a second position across the wiping bar.

24. (New) The assembly of claim 23, further including:

a motor operatively coupled to the trigger mechanism;

an air generator coupled to the motor and directing air towards the ring; and

a gear system coupled to the motor and applying pressure to the tubing to cause bubble solution to be delivered from the container to the ring.

25. (New) The assembly of claim 23, wherein the delivering means includes:

a container coupled to the housing and retaining bubble solution, the container having an interior; and

a tubing that couples the interior of the container with the ring.

26. (New) The assembly of claim 25, wherein actuation of the trigger mechanism simultaneously causes (i) the air generator to direct air towards the ring, (ii) the gear system to deliver bubble solution from the container to the ring, and (iii) the ring to move from the first position to the second position.

27. (New) The assembly of claim 23, wherein release of the trigger will cause the ring to move from the second position to the first position across the wiping bar.

28. (New) The assembly of claim 23, wherein actuation of the trigger mechanism simultaneously causes (i) the delivering means to deliver bubble solution to the ring, and (ii) the ring to move from the first position to the second position.

29. (New) The assembly of claim 25, wherein the delivering means further includes the trigger mechanism, at least one rotating pressure roller and a guide wall, the pressure roller having a base section and an upper section that has a smaller diameter than the base section, with the tubing positioned between the upper section of the pressure roller and the guide wall when the trigger mechanism is not actuated, and with the tubing positioned between the base section of the pressure roller and the guide wall when the trigger mechanism is actuated.

30. (New) The assembly of claim 29, wherein actuation of the trigger mechanism pushes the pressure roller towards the guide wall such that the tubing is moved from the upper section to the base section of the pressure roller.

31. (New) The assembly of claim 23, further including a bubble solution container which is removably coupled to the housing.

32. (New) The assembly of claim 23, wherein the ring is positioned inside the housing.

33. (New) The assembly of claim 24, wherein the air generator includes a fan, and a wind tunnel that extends from the fan to adjacent the front opening.

34. (New) The assembly of claim 31, further including a collection funnel positioned below the ring, with the container being removably coupled to the collection funnel so that droplets received on the collection funnel can flow into the container.

35. (New) The assembly of claim 23, wherein the ring has an interior chamber and an opening communicating with the interior chamber and through which the tubing extends, and a plurality of outlets on the front surface through which bubble solution can flow out.

36. (New) The assembly of claim 23, wherein the trigger mechanism has an electrical contact that removably couples the motor to actuate the motor, and a resilient member that normally biases the electrical contact away from the motor.

37. (New) The assembly of claim 23, wherein the link assembly includes:  
a link element connected to the trigger mechanism;  
a guide bar positioned on the link element, the guide bar having a guide surface;  
a pivot bar pivotably coupled to the housing, the pivot bar have a front end that is attached to the ring, and a guide leg that slidably engages the guide surface;  
a resilient member coupled to the pivot bar and normally biasing the pivot bar to pivot in a first direction; and  
wherein actuation of the trigger mechanism causes the guide leg to slide along the guide surface to overcome the bias of the resilient member, so that the pivot bar pivots in a second direction.

38. (New) The assembly of claim 23, wherein the ring experiences a curved movement as the ring moves from the first position to the second position across the wiping bar.

39. (New) The assembly of claim 23, further including an air control system that has a cover element which is adjusted to cover selected portions of the air generator to vary the amount of air provided to the air generator.

40. (New) The assembly of claim 23, wherein the ring experiences a semi-circular movement as the ring moves from the first position to the second position across the wiping bar.

41. (New) A bubble generating assembly comprising:  
a bubble generating ring;  
a funnel positioned below the bubble generating ring;  
a connector provided in the housing and coupled to the funnel;  
a container coupled to the connector and retaining bubble solution;  
wherein the connector has a valve element that allows the flow of fluid from the funnel into the container, but prevents flow of fluid from the container into the funnel, with the valve element coupled to the funnel, the valve element having:  
a housing defining a bottom wall and a bore;  
a ball that is retained in the bore; and  
an elongated slit provided along the bottom wall;  
with the slit having a width that is smaller than the diameter of the ball such that the ball cannot pass through the slit yet still defines space on either side of the ball so that fluid can flow around the ball and through the slit.

42. (New) A bubble generating assembly comprising:  
a housing having a front opening, with a wiping bar secured to a portion of the front opening;  
a trigger mechanism;  
a bubble generating ring positioned adjacent the front opening; and  
a link assembly that couples the trigger mechanism and the ring in a manner in which actuation of the trigger mechanism causes the ring to be moved in a curved manner from a first position to a second position across the wiping bar.